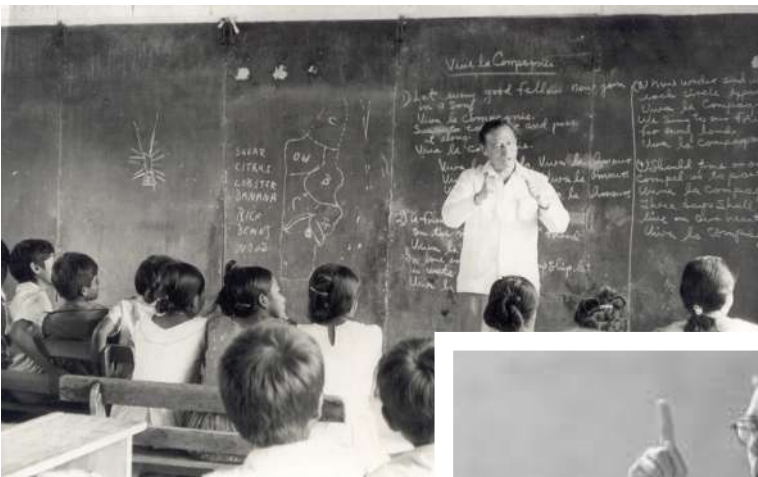




GEORGE PRICE DAY

Jan 15th Celebrated the Sixth Time



At the Special Sitting of the House of Representatives on January 8, 2021, parliament passed the proposal for the historical installation of George Price Day on January 15 as a Public and Bank Holiday. This date was the birthday of our 1st First Minister, 1st Premier, and 1st Prime Minister Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price. This was delivering on the planBelize manifesto promise. The date did more than a remembering a person. It emphatically commemorates the building of Belize as a nation. George Price's life serves as the template for 'Serve the People' to bring progress. Independence Hall on Queen Street Belize City will be the center of celebration on Thursday morning.



Pg. 2

NEWLY RENOVATED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING OPENING, MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 IN JOINT SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE

Visit Announcement
Guyanese President
Irfaan Ali



Pictured: 2022 Signing of MoU'

Pg. 8

PUP Swears in Executives
UWG, BYM, Marshalls



Inside

Graduation
Strengthening Public
Expenditure Management



UB Partnership

Pg. 9

Tracy on the Love Boat
Zero Transparency



Pg. 6

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, January 14, 2026.

The Cabinet met on 13th January 2026.

- Cabinet welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister that the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has accepted an invitation for a State Visit to Belize from 1st to 3rd February 2026. Dr. Ali will be addressing the Special Sitting of the National Assembly to be held on 2nd February in the newly renovated Assembly Building on Independence Hill.
- Cabinet discussed and took note of the consultations with stakeholders and supported the issuing of special permits for the transportation of wide loads on national highways. This, along with recent amendments to road safety regulations, will improve safety and reduce the number of reported traffic accidents, which last year reached over 3,300.
- Cabinet approved support for improved enforcement capabilities by the Department of Transport. Additional Transport Officers and vehicles will allow the Department to conduct 24 hours per day, seven days per week enforcement, to address the increased traffic infractions and accidents occurring across the country.
- Cabinet gave its approval for coordinated actions to strengthen the competitiveness of the Belize cacao sector by establishing a National Cacao Committee and for the implementation of key measures to meet emerging international market and compliance requirements.
- Cabinet gave its approval for the expansion of services for homeless and displaced persons through the establishment of new shelters in priority districts. These actions are proposed as part of the continued implementation of the Belize Homeless and Rough Shelter Initiative, which seeks to address the complex social challenges in Belize that are driven by factors such as mental illness, substance use, family disintegration, economic hardships, and the lack of long-term institutional care. Such services for homeless and displaced persons are critical to safeguarding vulnerable populations, improving public safety, and strengthening Belize’s social protection system.
- In 2024, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act was signed into law. This Act establishes provisions to prevent sexual harassment, protect all persons across workplaces and institutions, and provide an accessible mechanism for redress. Cabinet gave its approval for a coordinated national implementation framework for the Sexual Harassment Act, including institutional roles and responsibilities, compliance mechanisms, reporting obligations, and oversight arrangements.
- Cabinet has approved the adoption of the National Rural Development Strategy (NRDS) 2026–2030 and directed the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development and Local Government to coordinate its implementation. The Strategy establishes a unified national framework to guide rural development planning, investment, and delivery over the next five years. It ensures stronger coordination across Government and more effective targeting of resources in rural communities. The NRDS is structured around four strategic pillars: Partnership, Prosperity, People, and Places. It lays the foundation for inclusive and competitive rural economies, strengthened local governance, and improved quality of life in rural areas.
- Cabinet approved the establishment of a joint vetted unit in support of the national, transnational, and international immigration crime prevention unit. This unit will operate in partnership with the United States Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, at the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan. The terms of this agreement will be outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the Government of the United States and the Government of Belize.
- Cabinet approved an amendment to the First Schedule of the Customs and Excise Duties Act, Chapter 48 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, to provide for the corrective measures to address the breach of the Bound Rates of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Consolidated Tariff Schedule. WTO Bound Rates are the maximum tariffs Belize committed not to exceed on imported goods. It has been determined that the applied rates under Headings 44.04 and 44.09 are not in alignment with the bound rates established by the WTO, resulting in a breach of the tariff commitments. This amendment will ensure that Belize is compliant with its obligations under the WTO framework.
- Cabinet gave its approval for the amendment to the First Schedule for the Customs and Excise Duties Act, Chapter 48 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, to implement the fourth phase of the scheduled reduction of duties in accordance with the Government of Belize requirements under the Belize-Taiwan Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA). This would bring Belize into full compliance with its phased tariff elimination obligation under the ECA.
- Finally, Cabinet encourages all Belizeans to celebrate safely on Thursday, January 15, in honour of the Father of the Nation, the Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price.

Ends



PUP ANNOUNCEMENT

The People’s United Party invites applications for those wishing and willing to serve as a member of the

Executive Committee for the following divisions:

1. Mesopotamia
2. Albert
3. Queen’s Square

Applications are to be submitted in Duplicate. The Original to the PUP Secretariat and a Copy to the Eastern Caucus Chair no later than Friday, January 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Applications are available at the PUP Secretariat.



Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.
Amen.

The Belize Times

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Serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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People’s United Party Leader Emeritus

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José Jiménez

LAYOUT/GRAPHIC ARTIST

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OFFICE ASSISTANT

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EDITORIAL

George Price: A Legacy to Follow

The Right Honourable George Cadle Price was and is the inspiration of our nation to nation-build. Many, belonging to the pre-Z-Generation, share pictures and stories of simple yet momentous instances with Price, our Belizean giant. George Price walked and talked with an aura of grand humility that very few men have ever possessed. Those who knew him as a teen testified about being witnesses to that powerful modesty as he first intertwined into the Belizean fabric. At the age of seventeen, George Price entered his first of two seminaries, fully intent on becoming a Roman Catholic priest. In 1936, he attended Saint Augustine's Minor Seminary in Mississippi, United States. Then he moved to Mayor Seminario Conciliar in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The latter was circa 1940, when the world was at war, and thus Price was unable to complete his seminary studies. Additionally, his father, William Price, fell ill so in his twenties returned to support his family. His devout Catholicism persevered throughout his life, as he attended Mass daily, even as he entered politics. This early exposure to Catholic social justice teachings during his education, including the encyclical *Rerum novarum*, shaped his life and future political career. One can say that this helped shape Belizean society and led to the People's United Party's mantra of 'Serve the People'.

Every second of the seventy-five years of the PUP has ticked due to the peerless charisma of the Father of Our Nation. All 45 anniversaries of Belize's independence have been a platform for reminiscing about the first of George Price's innovative international negotiations. Today, this skill is still PUP's forte. In 2021, in line with public sentiment and recognising that George Price is beloved by Belizeans, the Government of Belize enacted that January 15 will be officially observed in honour of the Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price, Belize's first First Minister, first Premier and first Prime Minister. The latter is the quintessential template to follow for any Belizean Prime Minister and for many a world leader. At the Special Sitting of the House of Representatives on January 8, 2021, parliament passed the proposal made by Hon. Kareem Musa, the Minister responsible for public and bank holidays, for the historical installation of George Price Day and Emancipation Day. This was delivering on the planBelize manifesto—the now world-renowned, *modus operandi* of the Briceño administration.

Belize knows that George Price looks down and fully recognises his dogma and policy trends in the summary, details and conclusion of the planBelize. He would fully appreciate the loads of innovation and thought placed into the drafting of PUP's North Star, which harbours the soul of George Price's governance style. For example, memory allows us to recall when George Price decreed that Government vehicles should not be labelled 'Prime Minister', 'Minister', 'Mayor', etc. He felt, deep down, that, as servants of the people, the Government, including the Public Servants who, at some point, became Public Officers, should lead by following the needs of the people. George Price knew that arrogance has no place in governance.

Our beloved Right Honourable George Cadle Price was born on January 15, 1919, in Belize City as the third of eleven children to William Cadle Price and Irene Cecilia Price (nee Escalante). Mr Price attended Holy Redeemer Primary School and St. John's College High School. In 1947, he won his first municipal election and served as Mayor of Belize City from 1958 to 1962. In 1949, he, along with others, formed the People's Committee, which, on September 29, 1950, became the nation-building People's United Party, which he led until 1996. As a leader, he secured universal adult suffrage in 1954, self-government from Britain in 1964, and became the first Premier. George Price put Belize on track to Independence whilst weaning a PUP and a cadre of Belize-loving individuals to take on the mantle. Our leader, Prime Minister Briceño, today succeeds Price himself and many of the men who were inspired and groomed by George Cadle Price. On September 21, 1981, Belize attained Independence and full sovereignty, with George Cadle Price as the first prime minister and national hero, and is thus considered the Father of the Nation. On September 19, 2011, Price left Belize as the heir to his legacy, forever to be held in trust by the People's United Party as they 'Serve the People'.

Note to All Generations: Read about George Price in 'George Price: A Life Revealed, The Authorised Biography' by Godfrey P. Smith, and 'George Price: Journey of a Belizean Hero' by Meg Craig and Yasser Musa. Also recommended, download and read the breathtaking compilation of speeches called "Let Belize Live."

EDITORIAL*en Español***George Price: Un Legado a Seguir**

El Muy Honorable George Cadle Price fue y sigue siendo la inspiración de nuestra nación para la construcción del país. Muchos, pertenecientes a la generación anterior a la Z, comparten con Price, nuestro gigante beliceño, fotos e historias de momentos sencillos pero trascendentales. George Price caminaba y hablaba con un aura de gran humildad que muy pocos hombres han poseído jamás. Quienes lo conocieron en su adolescencia dieron testimonio de haber sido testigos de esa poderosa modestia cuando se integró por primera vez en el tejido social beliceño. A los diecisiete años, George Price ingresó al primero de sus dos seminarios, con la firme intención de convertirse en sacerdote católico romano. En 1936, asistió al Seminario Menor de San Agustín en Mississippi, Estados Unidos. Luego se trasladó al Mayor Seminario Conciliar en la Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala. Eso último ocurrió alrededor de 1940, cuando el mundo estaba en guerra, por lo que Price no pudo completar sus estudios en el seminario. Además, su padre, William Price, enfermó, por lo que a los veinte años regresó para mantener a su familia. Su devoto catolicismo se mantuvo a lo largo de su vida, ya que asistía a la misa todos los días, incluso cuando entró en la política. Esta temprana exposición a las enseñanzas católicas sobre la justicia social durante su formación, incluida la encíclica Rerum novarum, moldeó su vida y su futura carrera política. Se puede decir que esto contribuyó a dar forma a la sociedad beliceña y dio origen al lema del Partido Unido del Pueblo (PUP): «Servir al pueblo».

Cada segundo de los setenta y cinco años del PUP ha transcurrido gracias al carisma sin igual del Padre de Nuestra Nación. Los 45 aniversarios de la independencia de Belice han sido una plataforma para recordar la primera de las innovadoras negociaciones internacionales de George Price. Hoy en día, esta habilidad sigue siendo el punto fuerte del PUP. En 2021, en consonancia con el sentir popular y reconociendo que George Price es muy querido por los beliceños, el Gobierno de Belice decretó que el 15 de enero se celebrara oficialmente en honor al Muy Honorable George Cadle Price, primer ministro, primer primer ministro y primer primer ministro de Belice. Este último es el modelo por excelencia a seguir para cualquier primer ministro beliceño y para muchos líderes mundiales. En la sesión especial de la Cámara de Representantes celebrada el 8 de enero de 2021, el Parlamento aprobó la propuesta presentada por el Honorable Kareem Musa, ministro responsable de los días festivos y no laborables, para la histórica instauración del Día de George Price y del Día de la Emancipación. Con ello se cumplía el manifiesto del planbelice, el modus operandi de la administración Briceño, ahora mundialmente conocido.

Belice sabe que George Price observa desde arriba y reconoce plenamente su dogma y sus tendencias políticas en el resumen, los detalles y la conclusión del planbelice. Apreciaría plenamente la gran cantidad de innovación y reflexión que se ha puesto en la redacción de la Estrella Polar del PUP, que alberga el alma del estilo de gobierno de George Price. Por ejemplo, la memoria nos permite recordar que George Price estableció que los vehículos del Gobierno no debían llevar la etiqueta «Primer Ministro», «Ministro», «Alcalde», etc. En el fondo, sentía que, como servidores del pueblo, el Gobierno, incluidos los funcionarios públicos que en algún momento se convirtieron en tales, debía liderar según las necesidades del pueblo. George Price sabía que la arrogancia no tiene cabida en la gobernanza.

Nuestro querido y honorable George Cadle Price nació el 15 de enero de 1919 en la ciudad de Belice, siendo el tercero de once hijos de William Cadle Price e Irene Cecilia Price (de soltera Escalante). El Sr. Price asistió a la escuela primaria Holy Redeemer y al instituto St. John's College. En 1947 ganó sus primeras elecciones municipales y fue alcalde de la ciudad de Belice de 1958 a 1962. En 1949, junto con otras personas, formó el Comité Popular que el 29 de septiembre de 1950 se convirtió en el Partido Unido del Pueblo, dedicado a la construcción de la nación que él dirigió hasta 1996. Como líder, consiguió el sufragio universal para los adultos en 1954, la autonomía de Gran Bretaña en 1964 y se convirtió en el primer ministro. George Price puso a Belice en el camino hacia la independencia, al tiempo que formó el PUP y un grupo de personas amantes de Belice para que tomaran el relevo. Nuestro líder, el primer ministro Briceño, es hoy el sucesor del propio Price y de muchos de los hombres que se inspiraron en y se formaron con George Cadle Price. El 21 de septiembre de 1981, Belice alcanzó la independencia y la plena soberanía, con George Cadle Price como primer ministro y héroe nacional, por lo que se le considera el padre de la nación. El 19 de septiembre de 2011, Price dejó Belice como heredero de su legado que el Partido Unido del Pueblo conservará para siempre en fideicomiso mientras «sirva al pueblo».

Nota para todas las generaciones: lean sobre George Price en «George Price: A Life Revealed, The Authorised Biography», de Godfrey P. Smith, y «George Price: Journey of a Belizean Hero», de Meg Craig y Yasser Musa. También se recomienda descargar y leer la impresionante recopilación de discursos titulada «Let Belize Live».



Queen Street, Belize City, Belize, C.A.
Tel: 677-9168
www.pup.org.bz

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Monday, January 12, 2026

PUP PRESS RELEASE

On Saturday, January 10th, the People’s United Party officially swore in the National Executive Committees for three of the four standing units of the party, namely the United Women’s Group (UWG), the Belize Youth Movement (BYM) and the Marshall’s Community Service Corp (MCSC) at Independence Hall in Belize City.

Present to witness the swearing in ceremony conducted by the PUP Secretariat and Party Chairman Hon. Henry Charles Usher who administered the Oath of Office was Ms. Leni Jo Usher, National Chairperson of the Order of Distinguished Service (ODS).

The UWG is headed by Ms. Carla Bradley, the BYM by Mr. Malcolm Nunez and the MCSC by Mr. Nigel Belilse.

The Party wishes to congratulate all who were sworn in to their Executive positions and thank them for their dedicated commitment and service to the party and by extension to the people and country of Belize.

****ENDS****

(see centerfold)

Serve the People!

Investing in our Youngest Belizeans
Starts with Empowered Caregivers



The Department of Human Services, through the Community and Parent Empowerment Programme (COMPAR), recently conducted a training on the Roving Caregivers Programme for new Rovers from the Corozal and Toledo Districts.

This training equipped participants with practical, evidence-based skills to support early childhood development for children aged 0-3, particularly in underserved communities. Through hands-on learning and community engagement, Rovers are better prepared to nurture children’s cognitive, emotional, and social development during these critical early years.

By strengthening the capacity of caregivers, this initiative helps lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning, well-being, and national development.

Strong caregivers. Strong children. Strong communities.(post)



TENDER



The Provision of Marine Support Services for Belize District

Belize Electricity Limited invites tenders for the Provision of Marine Support Services **starting on Friday, January 9, 2026**. The works include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provide marine vessels, lifting equipment, commercial diving services, and offshore operations support.

Location:
Belize District – Marine distance between San Pedro (South) and Caye Caulker (North)

Bidders are also invited to a **pre-bid meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026**, that will be held in **Belize City at the BEL Magazine Road Compound**. The meeting will be immediately followed by a site visit to the work area, which will be conducted via a boat provided by BEL.

Interested bidders can email their request for a copy of the bid document to **bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz**, which outlines all duties and responsibilities of the contract.

Tenders must be submitted via email **no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on Friday, February 6, 2026**.

Email: **bidsubmittal@bel.com.bz**
Email Subject: **BID #NCB-032601-WORKS – Provision of Marine Support Services – Belize District**

Kindly send names of personnel attending the pre-bid meeting to **bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz** using the email subject provided. Bidders will be required to submit a fixed price quotation to perform the services as outlined in the tender document.

For more information or queries, send email to bidcorrespondence@bel.com.bz

BEL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for BEL's action. BEL will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 2/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 and will be redeemed on Tuesday 21 April 2026.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 16 January 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday 20 January 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

2 January 2026

TRACY on the LOVE BOAT

LOO Tracy Pantón and UDP Chairperson Pitts met with Michael Ashcroft on his Atlantic Goose yacht and suddenly her calls for transparency for Public figures are out the window. The speculation from the public is multiple times greater than the BTL-SMART Merger. Why does the LOO have to meet with Lord Ashcroft? Were any financial arrangements cemented for the UDP's to side with the deal? Tracy Pantón was belligerent at best. She owes Belize another explanation in addition to the Boledo given to Brads while she worked for the Barrow administration.

"A leader must be able to meet with any potential investors that may come to Belize," was all Tracy Pantón declared at her latest press conference. On the surface, that statement sounds reasonable and even statesmanlike. However, when placed against recent criticisms of the Prime Minister, it exposes a troubling level of hypocrisy on transparency that Belizeans should not ignore.

When the Prime Minister met with Mexican businesspeople on a state-sponsored visit—organized and facilitated by the Mexican government—it was done openly, publicly, and in the national interest. These meetings were transparent, diplomatic, and focused on investment,

cooperation, and economic growth for Belize. Yet, instead of constructive engagement, these efforts were met with criticism and suspicion from the very voices now preaching openness. The Prime Minister is transparent and Jules and the LOO loves to twist what he sees. Anything that is Belizean progress has to be stifled.

This raises legitimate questions. Tracy Pantón: if leaders must meet with all potential investors, why the outrage when the Prime Minister does exactly that? More importantly, Belizeans deserve clarity about your own engagements. When you met privately with Lord Ashcroft, widely regarded as an enemy from within, what was discussed? What assurances were given? What doors were opened, and to whom?

Transparency cannot be selective. Accountability cannot be demanded of one side and ignored on the other. If meetings are acceptable in principle, then they must be acceptable in practice—especially when conducted in the open and for national development.

Belizeans are not opposed to dialogue or investment. What we reject is double standards. If leaders expect trust, they must earn it with honesty, consistency, and full disclosure.

MoHW Alerts Public to Ongoing Measles Outbreaks in the Americas and Recent Outbreak in Guatemala

Belmopan, January 14, 2026.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) advises the public of a confirmed measles outbreak in neighbouring Guatemala, as reported through official regional health channels. A total of 11 individuals with measles have been identified in El Salvador (one case) and in Guatemala (ten cases) up to yesterday. Most of these cases are linked to residence in or travel to Santiago Atitlán, Sololá, Guatemala. Although the majority of cases are located in the department of Sololá, additional cases have been located in the departments of Guatemala (City), Petén, and Izabal.

In addition, measles outbreaks continue to occur in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, increasing the risk of exposure and illness for unvaccinated travelers to these countries.

The Ministry reminds the public that measles is a **highly contagious** and potentially serious viral illness that can lead to long-term complications. It spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Symptoms usually appear 7–21 days after exposure and begin with fever, runny nose, and red eyes,

followed by a rash that starts at the hairline and spreads downward to the chest, back, limbs, and the rest of the body. Individuals are contagious from four days before the rash appears until four days after.

Measles is **preventable** through vaccination. The measles vaccine is safe, effective, and provides lifelong immunity after two doses.

The Ministry advises the following:

- If you or a family member has travelled to Santiago Atitlán, Sololá recently, please contact your nearest health center or call the MOHW hotline at **0-800-MOH-CARE (0-800-664-2273)**.
- If you are not vaccinated, visit your nearest health facility to receive the measles vaccine or to obtain more information.
- If you develop fever and rash, seek medical attention immediately at the nearest health facility.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness continues to monitor the situation closely and urges the public to remain vigilant and protected.

Ends



RESPONSE TO THE BCCI’S PRESS RELEASE
AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS

I have carefully reviewed the Chamber’s statement, followed by members of the press and other Belizeans, on safeguarding competition amid the current telecommunications market speculation. While I respect the Chamber’s and other Belizean’s intent to promote a healthy market, I believe the statements presents an incomplete analysis of the dynamics at play and risks stifling the very innovation and investment necessary for the sector’s future.

This rebuttal is based on the following points:

1. Misplaced Focus on Structure Over Outcomes: The statement presupposes that the current market structure is optimal for competition and consumer welfare. This overlooks the fact that the telecommunications industry is capital-intensive (this fact has been presented by the Chairman of BTL, facing unprecedented demands for network expansion, 5G/6G deployment, and fiber optic upgrades. Strategic consolidation can be a necessary tool to achieve the scale required for these massive investments, ultimately leading to better, faster, and more widespread services for consumers. Preventing all structural evolution risks cementing the status quo and depriving consumers of next-generation benefits.

2. The Global Competitiveness Imperative: The Chamber’s domestic-centric view fails to account for the global competitive landscape. Our national operators are not just competing with each other; they are competing with well-funded, scaled international giants. Overly restrictive policies that hinder domestic scale and operational efficiency can inadvertently weaken our national champions, reduce their ability to invest in R&D, and diminish our country’s standing in the global digital economy. A dynamic market must be allowed to evolve to meet global challenges.

3. Regulatory Frameworks Are Adequate and Agile: The statement implies a regulatory vacuum, which is not the case. Existing antitrust and telecommunications regulations are robust and capable of evaluating any proposed transaction on its specific merits. These reviews already rigorously assess impacts on competition, consumer prices, and innovation. Pre-emptively declaring all speculation as a threat undermines the sophisticated, evidence-based work of regulatory bodies (and in our case the PUC’s capability) and creates an atmosphere of uncertainty that discourages investment.

4. Speculation as a Sign of Market Health, Not Sickness: Market speculation is often a sign of investor confidence and a belief in future growth and efficiency gains. It is a normal function of a mature capital market. To frame it uniformly as a danger mischaracterizes a fundamental market process. The appropriate response is not generalized caution but rigorous, case-by-case regulatory scrutiny where and when concrete proposals emerge.

However, while we agree that competition is a cornerstone of a vibrant market, we contend that competition must be defined by outcomes—such as lower

consumer prices, increased innovation, and higher-quality services—not by rigid adherence to a specific number of market players. Policies should be forward-looking, enabling the industry to build the infrastructure of the future, not merely preserving the structures of the past.

We urge the Chamber and the other pundits to reconsider their stance and engage in a more nuanced dialogue that balances competitive safeguards with the imperatives of investment, innovation, and global competitiveness. Perhaps BTL is prepared to contribute additional data and analysis to support this more comprehensive perspective.

(BCCI of course is the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTY

Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following property. **Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this property is sold.**

Parcel No. 1241 George Street, Benque Viejo Del Carmen, Cayo District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
George Street	23	1241
The freehold property of Mr. Luis Puga.		

“FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE”

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH

KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488

Website: belizepropertyauctions.com

E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com

Facebook: [Belize Auctions](#)



MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ref. No.PR/DOE 01-26

PRESS RELEASE

PHASED ROLLOUT OF NEW OZONE LAYER PROTECTION REGULATIONS, 2025

Belmopan, Belize. January 7, 2026. The Department of the Environment (DOE) is pleased to announce a staged implementation of the regulations that reinforce Belize’s commitment to environmental preservation and the protection of the ozone layer. The **Environmental Protection (Ozone Layer Protection) Regulations, 2025 (SI No. 95 of 2025)** will strengthen the management and control of refrigerants and refrigerant-based equipment across the country.

To ensure a smooth transition for businesses, importers are hereby advised of the initial phase, which highlights new procedures, updated fees, and compliance requirements.

For Businesses and Importers:
Any entity **importing** controlled substances (like HCFCs and HFCs) and/or refrigerant-based equipment must follow a new two-step process:

- **Compulsory Registration:** Importers must register with the Chief Environmental Officer. There is a BZ \$1,000.00 non-refundable fee.
- **Transaction Licensing:** Once registered, a license is still required for every import/export via the Online Permit & Application Licensing (OPAL) System.
- **Prohibited Items:** The importation of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), 1,1-dichloro-1-fluoroethane (R-141b) and equipment containing Chlorodifluoromethane (R-22) remains strictly prohibited.

For Households (Personal Use):

- **Simplified Approval:** Individuals importing up to two units for the year (e.g., 2 refrigerators, 2 ACs or 2 freezers for home use) can get an exemption letter.
- **Fee:** There is a \$25.00 fee for this exemption letter.

Next Steps: Full implementation and required compliance will be in effect within the next three months. While this transition period has officially begun, the DOE will be conducting public awareness.

Importers are strongly encouraged to contact the office immediately to begin their registration process. For more details contact the office directly or e-mail us directly.

END

For more information contact:
Chief Environmental Officer
Department of the Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan
Tel: 822 548/2819
Email: ozone@environment.gov.bz
Website: www.doe.gov.bz

Visit to Belize Announced

PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

H.E. DR MOHAMED IFRAAN ALI

The Guyana Chronicle, the nation’s newspaper, reported on January 13, 2026, that President Dr Ifraan Ali of that country will make a state visit to Belize from February 1 to 3, 2026 to deepen its diplomatic and economic engagement within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

A press release from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) of Belize also announced the move. The major highlight of the visit will be President Ali’s address at the Joint Sitting and the opening of the new session of Parliament. The special joint sitting will coincide



with the inauguration of the newly renovated National Assembly building.

As CARICOM’s Lead Head of Government with responsibilities for agriculture, President Ali will undertake a visit to Belize’s productive sector, with a focus on strengthening regional cooperation, investment and trade. The focus of the engagement between President Ali and Prime Minister John Briceño is to advance shared priorities in food security,

agricultural development, and the resilience of the Caribbean region’s economies. Presently Belize’s productive sector has been spurring with the new sugar refinery about to take flight serving the Caribbean region and the new flour manufacturing plant following suit and Silk Grass Farms expanding its product line. In 2022 PM Briceño visited Guyana and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the countries to boost trade and tourism.

The visit is expected to culminate with the signing of a number of cooperation agreements,



which are aimed at continuing the collaborative engagement between Belize and Guyana that has benefitted both countries.

The release notes that President Ali will also hold bilateral meetings with H.E. Dame Froyla T’Zalam, Governor General of Belize and Prime Minister of Belize, John Briceño. The discussions are expected to include a range of topics regarding regional and international issues, including integration and development within CARICOM.

The press release concludes by stating that Belize and Guyana have historically shared robust bilateral relations, which were established when Belize gained its independence in 198. A relationship grounded in the commitment to regional solidarity, development, and integration.

By Hilly Bennett



"...knowledge
alone does not
move you to
action. It is the
desire, the will
to serve."

Happy George Price Day

January 15, 2026

From Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez
and the Ministry of Human
Development, Family Support
and Gender Affairs.



Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Remarks Minister Henry Charles Usher Minister of Public Service January 12, 2026

Today marks a proud and significant milestone for Belize's public service as we celebrate the successful completion of the Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) Certification Programme. This programme was created to build skills in planning, reporting, controls and ultimately the delivery of services of our people. It was designed not merely to instruct, but to transform how we manage public resources, ensuring we become better financial stewards for a stronger, more sustainable Belizean economy.

The SPEM Project, under Sub-component 1.4 "Strengthening Capacity Building to Improve Institutional Capacity" was made possible through a partnership both technical and financial with the IDB. It began in 2024 with a thorough skills gap analysis, which revealed significant competency gaps in our public financial management. In response, this comprehensive curriculum was developed covering all critical public financial management areas from general Introduction to Public Sector Financial Management to the following 5 key areas of certification:

1. Accounting including IPSAS principles and auditing
2. Budgeting including techniques and forecasting
3. Treasury and cash flow management
4. Procurement including national and international regulations and contract management
5. Internal control and risk based auditing

If you are a Finance Officer, an Economist, a Budget Analyst, an Administrative Assistant, a First Class Clerk, or anyone public officer who deals with public funds, you are frontline. You are not "back office". You are the line that protects Belize. You are the line that turns policy into reality. You are the line that keeps a Ministry on the right track, keeps a Department disciplined and keeps the public confidence alive.

When budgeting is weak, services suffer.

When procurement is irregular, value is lost.

When cash flow is not managed, projects stall.

When internal controls are ignored, the door opens for waste and abuse.

And when accounting standards are not followed, trust erodes.

That is why this certification matters. By working together with the University of Belize and internationally recognized experts the programme has ensured that the competencies gained are both globally aligned and locally relevant. Overall

it reflects the government's unwavering commitment to accountability, transparency and excellence in public financial management.

This cohort included 83 mandatory and 36 voluntary participants. On average, 78 per cent of the mandatory and 71 per cent of the voluntary participants achieved certification. The high standards expected were met. That is diligence. That is commitment.

But this is bigger than passing a course. This is about stewardship. You are equipped with managing the finances of this country competently, confidently and ethically. With the courage to say no when something is wrong and the skill to show the right

way forward. Every figure you post, every voucher you verify, every forecast you prepare, every contract you manage and every control you enforce is connected to real lives. It is connected to classrooms, clinics, critical infrastructure, citizen safety and economic opportunity. It is connected to the kind of Belize we are building.

This programme is now the foundation for all future professional development in financial management across the public service. It will be a requirement for promotability within the financial grades. The Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance are committed to ensure we have a skilled workforce capable of stewarding public funds with integrity and insight.

Graduates, you are now ambassadors of a new standard. Carry this knowledge forward. Lead with confidence. Innovate with responsibility. And remember, you are key to building a more effective, trustworthy and modern public service for Belize.

Congratulations to each of you!



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BELIZE GOVERNMENT
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BYM, BDF, OWTC, DoY and Others OW Tree Planting Exemplar



The BDF's Alpha Company, First Infantry Battalion – Strengthening Communities Through Service – took time of their super busy schedule to heed the Belize Youth Movement in a very noble and conservative initiative. This past 10th January 2026, the Belize Defence Force, based at Eyles Camp, Orange Walk, joined others in a Tree Planting Initiative at Ramon Cervantes Park in the Pasadita area, and a community cleanup at Sandy Field Park.



This initiative, organized by the Belize Youth Movement, brought together several stakeholders, including: Orange Walk Town Council, Trial Farm

Cadets, Bishop Martin High School, Hope Feeding Program, Community Policing, Department of Youth, Better Life Pharmacy and friends. This activity reflects the essence of Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) — a vital element of national development and resilience. Through leadership

by example, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, Alpha Company and others continues to embody service, respect, and responsibility. Together, we plant not only trees—but also seeds of unity and growth in our community. (post excerpts)





CENTRAL BANK

of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Human Resources and Compliance Departments, as well as its Economic Programming and Exchange Control Division.

The Senior Administrative Assistant supports the Manager's office and the respective department by ensuring effective communication and efficient operation of priority matters. The role optimizes the Manager's time through planning, scheduling, and monitoring of departmental responsibilities.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Receive, screen, and prioritize telephone calls, emails, and other correspondence directed to the Manager's office.
- Respond to correspondence in accordance with established guidelines and draft correspondence for the Manager's review and signature.
- Support the Manager and department with daily, weekly, and monthly planning to ensure all matters are addressed in a timely manner.
- Develop and maintain effective follow-up systems to monitor the implementation of the Manager's directives, decisions, and requests within agreed timelines.
- Follow up on time-sensitive issues and keep the Manager advised of their status.
- Coordinate the Manager's and department's participation in domestic and international meetings, conferences, and events, including securing agendas and preparing required documentation.
- Maintain Manager's office and departmental records in accordance with established guidelines, ensuring highest level of confidentiality.
- Manage stationery and office supplies to maintain adequate inventory levels and ensure timely distribution.
- Plan and execute assigned projects and events, including management retreats and regional activities coordinated from the Manager's office.
- Prepare, reconcile, and file weekly and monthly leave and attendance reports for departmental personnel.
- Perform other duties as required to support the department's functions.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A preferred qualification of an associate's degree in business administration, or a related field from a recognized tertiary institution, with at least three (3) years of relevant experience; Possession of an Advanced (Executive) Administrative Professional Certificate will be considered a strong asset.
- A minimum qualification of an associate's degree in business administration, or a related field from a recognized tertiary institution, with at least two years (2) years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of office administration and confidentiality standards; Strong communication (oral and written), customer service and relation-building skills; Project management skills; Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Organizational Ability, Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Job Knowledge, Quality of Output, Deportment, Problem Solving/Judgement.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 21 January 2026:**

- Central Bank Employment Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates
- Two (2) current references (at least one must be from a previous or current employer)

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P O Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Senior Administrative Assistant

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)



Happy
GEORGE PRICE
Day

January 15

On behalf of the Party Leader PM John Briceño, Deputy PL DPM Cordel Hyde, Chairman Hon. Henry Usher, Deputy Regional Leaders, the Caucus Chairs, the entire PUP National Executive, and the Rest of the PUP Family

Join us in the Sixth Celebration of this National Day at the Independence Hall, Queen Street, Belize City for the OPENING of the 75th Anniversary Exhibit in Belize City.

THE PUP AT 75
Serving the People
CONTINUING THE REVOLUTION
EXHIBIT

In 2026, The Work Continues

Party Arm Executives Sworn in



Belize Youth Movement
(L-R) Matthew Romero, Treasurer; Diane Cho, Secretary; Brittney Galvez, Vice-President; Hon. Henry Usher, Party Chairman; Senieda Shol, Public Relations; Malcolm Nunez, President; Cadir Escalante, Chief of Staff; Theodore Marin, Asst. Secretary;



United Women's Group
(L-R) Carla Bradley, President; Julian Mortis, Chief of Staff; Hon. Henry Usher, Party Chairman; Marissa Alamilla, Public Relations; Chelsea Galvez, Vice-President



Marshalls
(L-R) Josue Perez, Secretary; Hon. Henry Usher, Party Chairman; Carol Francis, Vice-President; Delvorine Bennett, Treasurer; Nigel Belisle, President

BYM along w/ OWTC, BDF, and others

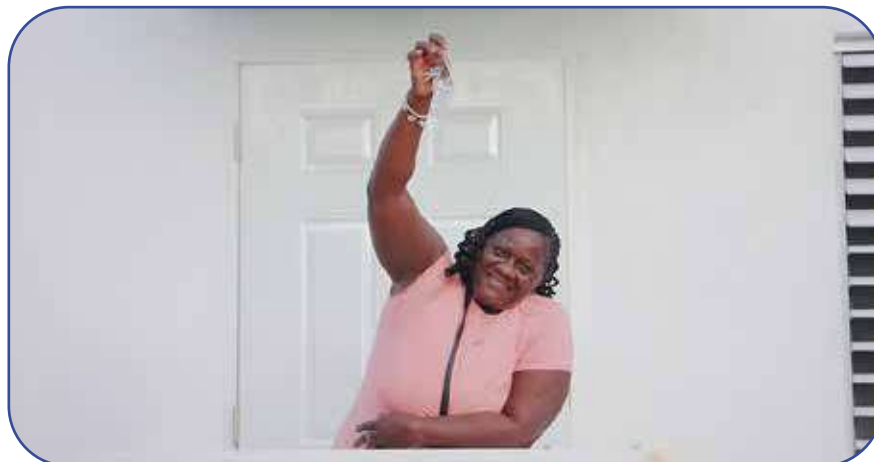
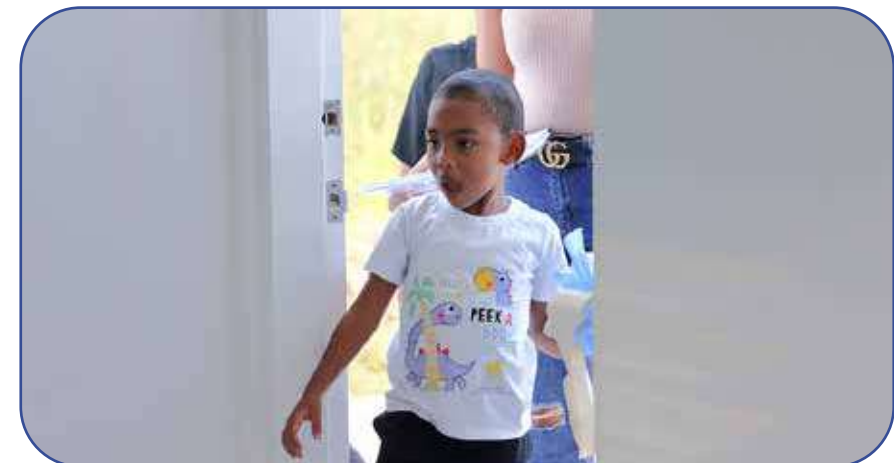


Tree Planting in Trial Farm, Hon. Cervantes' OWN



Min. Espot, DPM Hyde, Mins. Ramirez, Musa, Bernard, Others

A few of the hundreds of planBelize homes



Min. Henry Charles Usher, Public Service and Disaster Risk Management



Partnering w/ UB: Completion of SPEM Certification Programme

Hon. Martinez, Toledo East



Supporting Sports

Min. Rodwell Ferguson, MoS Balona, Agric, Food Security, & New Growth Industries



Accepting donation from UNDP, FAO of the United Nations and KOICA

MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE



Intense paving work in Hon. Chebat's Cayo North



Benque Lomas del Rodeo and Santa Cruz areas



Punta Gorda Town Council works

PlanBelize 2.0



Curbing
the Cost
of Living

#planBelize 2.0

Progress for All Belizeans

- ✓ MSME Tax Amnesty
- ✓ BPO move to Global Digital
- ✓ \$5 Minimum Wage soon up to \$6
- ✓ 8.5 per cent raise for teachers and public servants
- ✓ Raise in Subsidy for UB
- ✓ Financial Aid to hundreds of Students
- ✓ Free Education at 23 Schools/12,00 plus Students:
Tuition, Books, Device, Uniform, Meals, Transport
- ✓ Raising Income Tax Threshold for thousands
- ✓ Price Barrack Commissary for Police, BDF, & Coast Guard
- ✓ Healthy Start Meals reach 15,000 Students Daily
- ✓ Back to School – GST-free Weekends
- ✓ Christmas – GST-free Weekends
- ✓ Expanded the list of controlled goods
- ✓ Enforcement of price gouging laws
- ✓ Issuing tickets to businesses that violate the rules
- ✓ Exemption from GST and Customs Duties on Feminine hygiene products
- ✓ Passing on Savings on Butane
- ✓ GoB Stabilize Cost of Regular and Diesel Fuels
- ✓ Public Hospitals are FEE Free
- ✓ NHI Health Care Access
- ✓ People's Boledo proceeds for Health care & Sports
- ✓ Access to Housing and Land decreases the need for rent
- ✓ NO new taxes
- ✓ Buy Belize policy benefitting local



MORE OF PLAN BELIZE 2.0

- Diversification of Crops
- Debt-to-GDP Shrinking
- Stable MacroEconomy
- Fortification of Green/Blue/Orange Economies
- Changing Laws for MSME development
- Confidence ensures Record Foreign Direct Investment
- Internationally Renowned Blue Bond
- Western Hemisphere Leader in GDP growth
- Tourism record numbers – Overnight and Flight
- Innovative New Enterprises
- Respected by the world

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

2026 GLOBAL YOUTH TRENDS FORUM

“Powering Sustainability. Youth X Green Collar X Action”

By Hilly Bennett

Belize was once again represented on the global stage in Taipei City, Taiwan, at the 2026 Global Youth Trends Forum, held on January 3-4, 2026.

According to the Ministry of Education (MOE) of Taiwan, the “Powering Sustainability: Youth X Green Collar X Action” forum involved around 200 youths and representatives from 21 countries to discuss green career planning and cross-disciplinary cooperation to achieve global impact.

Representing Belize and Belize City were Indira Chantelle Loague, Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations, and Belize City Council Program Manager Micheal Fritz, who joined Salma Aguero Caballero, the Youth Minister of Paraguay, and other senior officials from around the world to engage in in-depth discussions on practical pathways towards sustainable development.

Deputy Minister of Education Liu Kuo-Wei, in his opening remarks, said that, “amid global challenges, industrial transformation, and social inequality, youth are not only bearers of the future but also a critical force for change today.”

Liu added that the Taiwan government has long supported youth participation in public affairs and global issues. He continued saying that the forum provides a platform for Taiwan’s youth to engage with global counterparts, cultivate cross-disciplinary skills and effect a difference in advocating for sustainable development and a green economy.

Fritz, the BCC Program Manager detailed his experience highlighting that “The 2026 Global Youth Trends Forum

provided an invaluable platform to engage with youth practitioners and delegates from across the world, and to see firsthand what different countries are doing in the service of conservation and sustainability.” One of the initiatives that the Belize City Council, under the vision of Mayor Bernard Wagner, has embarked on, in concert with the Sustainable Development Goals, is the e-Mobility project funded by the European Union (EU) and administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Youth Development Administration suggested that the 2026 forum centers on “New Momentum for Sustainability”, aiming to connect youth partners worldwide from sustainable lifestyles to green careers to international cooperation to jointly inject new energy into building a more resilient and inclusive future. According to Fritz “What stood out was the intentional shift away from treating sustainability as a hobby or short-term project, and instead positioning green-collar pathways as long-term, viable careers for young people.”

Belize, and specifically Belize City, continues to champion the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals known as SDGs. The 2026 Global Youth Trends Forum underscores that the pursuit is now being championed by youth-led forces including Belize’s Chantelle Loague and the BCC Program Manager, Micheal Fritz.



PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY



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Services

- Passport Application
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- Nationality Services
- Permanent Resident Application
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Relevant documents are to be dropped off at the Collet Office between 12-23rd January 2026

24th and 25th January 2026
9:00AM - 3:00PM

Gateway Youth Center

Visit the Collet Office or Call 612-7348 with any questions or concerns.

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PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Chan Pine Ridge, Libertad, Warree Bight, Corozal District; San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District; San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize City, Belize District; Unitedville, San Ignacio, Cayo District; Independence Village, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicles. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Parcel No. 32/1 Chan Pine Ridge Village, Orange Walk District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Chan Pine Ridge	4	32/1
The leasehold property of Mr. German Tzul.		

2. Parcel No. 666 Libertad Village, Corozal District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Libertad Village	1	666
The Freehold property of Mr. Reginald Diego.		

3. Parcel No. 368 Warree Bight/Freshwater Creek, Chunox Village, Corozal District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Warree Bight/Freshwater Creek	3	368
The Freehold property of Mr. Rene Tun.		

4. Parcel No. 523 San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Estevan	1	523
The Freehold property of Ms. Sue Ann Palomo.		

5. Parcel No. 1500 San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Pedro	7	1500
The Freehold property of Ms. Kristy Pisarczyk.		

6. Parcel No. 4619 Society Hall, Unitedville Santa Elena, Cayo District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
United Village	24	4619
The Freehold property of Mr. Edwin Flowers.		

7. Parcel No. 3028 West of Poison Wood Street, San Ignacio, Cayo District:



Registration Section	Block	Parcel
San Ignacio North	23	3028
The Freehold property of Ms. Kenberly Gibbs.		

8. Lot No. 48 Hercules Avenue, Independence Village, Stann Creek District:



ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 48 comprising 572.864 square meters of land situate in Independence Village, Stann Creek District. (The freehold property of Ms. Lourdes Rudon.)

9. Vehicles



2010 Black Chevy Equinox



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Belize and USA Biometric Data Sharing Partnership Strengthens National Security

Belmopan, Monday, January 12, 2026 — The Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour (MIGL) officially launched the Biometric Data Sharing Partnership (BDSP), a collaborative initiative with the United States Embassy aimed at improving border security and migration management through advanced identity verification tools.

The BDSP enhances how Immigration Officers **verify the identities of travelers entering Belize** by incorporating fingerprint-based biometric technology. This system significantly reduces verification response time and allows for secure screening of individuals at all major legal ports of entry.

Speaking at the launch event, Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Immigration, Governance and Labour, stated: “We are facing an influx of visitors to Belize and with that, a greater responsibility to ensure safety and accountability at our borders. This system gives our Immigration Officers real-time access to crucial data, allowing for faster decisions and more accurate verification. It supports national security and strengthens our ability to detect suspicious travel activity.”

The BDSP forms part of a larger national push to modernize Belize’s border management operations. It complements the existing Migration Information Data System (MIDAS), which performs primary verification using scanned documents. When secondary verification is required, BDSP provides deeper insight into an individual’s identity through biometric fingerprint scans that are checked against international databases.

“This is a timely intervention that gives us an added layer of protection. It helps prevent individuals with criminal records or links to illicit activities from gaining access to our country,” Musa added.

A key scenario outlined during the event involved officers detecting an altered passport. Previously, officers relied on intuition and time-consuming communications to verify identity. With BDSP, the officer can conduct fingerprint scans on the spot and receive confirmation within minutes, enhancing both national security and operational efficiency.

Katharine Beamer, Chargé d’Affaires for the US Embassy indicated that “This joint initiative between the Governments of the United States and Belize reflects our shared commitment to strengthening border security, improving migration management, and safeguarding our citizens. Today’s event marks the handing over of approximately \$250,000 US dollars in biometric data security partnership funded by the US State Department.”

The Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour extends its appreciation to the Government of the United States for its technical assistance and commitment to regional cooperation.

CEO Tanya Santos added “In an increasingly interconnected world, security challenges do not respect borders, and neither can our solutions. Today’s handover marks an important milestone in building a more integrated, intelligence driven approach to border management and national security. Through coordinated efforts and intelligence information sharing among partners, we will continue to build a comprehensive security framework that is resilient, responsive, and forward looking. As the Ministry of Immigration continues to grow and evolve, this handover strengthens our institutional capacity and reinforces our commitment to effective, secure, and accountable border management. We remain focused on ensuring

ing that this system is fully utilized, sustainably maintained, and aligned with our national security priorities.”

The BDSP is now being rolled out across major ports and is expected to be fully implemented in the coming months. (release)

The agreement for this was signed in the summer of 2025 and has now come to fruition. Belize with the USA are intent on keeping both nations as safe as possible with the most efficiency and efficacy.



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Keep hands away from your face such as your mouth, nose, & eyes to avoid transferring germs

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Cover coughs and sneezes in elbow or sleeve or use a tissue and properly throw tissue away in a trash can then wash hands.

Stay at home if you are feeling sick with the flu or cold. Do not go to work School or public places & avoid close contact with others

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MET-Sugar Industry Establish Bi-Monthly Meetings

Boosts Transparency and Efficiency

Belmopan, January 9, 2026 - Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, convened a meeting with key stakeholders from the northern sugarcane industry to review preparations for the 2026 crop season. The 2026 crop is scheduled to begin on January 19, 2026. Supporting Minister Martinez were Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, and Dr. Marcelino Avila, Senior Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister. The meeting formed part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination, transparency, and joint decision-making across the sugarcane value chain.

During the meeting, the Ministry of Economic Transformation reaffirmed its commitment to the northern sugarcane industry by establishing bi-monthly stakeholder meetings to be held at the Sugar Industry Control Board (SICB) Conference Room in Buena Vista, Corozal. These meetings will include representatives from the SICB, the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI), Belize Sugar Industries/American Sugar Refining (BSI/ASR), the Sugar Cane Production Committee (SCPC), and the four cane farmers' associations—Northern Sugar Cane Growers Association, Progressive Sugar Cane Pro-



ducers Association, Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association, and Corozal Sugar Cane Producers Association.

In his remarks at the first stakeholder meeting of 2026, Dr. Hon. Martinez underscored the Government's resolve to ensure that all actors in the sugar industry work toward a common vision of a resilient, competitive, and farmer-focused sector. He emphasized that the newly established bi-monthly meetings would serve as a permanent platform for reviewing progress, addressing emerging issues, and maintaining open dialogue among farmers' associations, the mill, and regulatory bodies.

Stakeholders reviewed mill readiness for the 2026 crop, during which BSI/ASR confirmed plans to begin steam trials on

Friday, January 9, 2026. The meeting also addressed key support measures, including the fuel subsidy and the waiver of licenses for sugarcane transport units.

Participants received updates on sugar road works, which were identified as critical to the timely and efficient delivery of cane during the harvest period. To improve coordination and oversight, participants agreed to establish a technical committee. The committee will include representatives from major institutions to work alongside the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) on road maintenance. As part of this initiative, Dr. Martinez indicated that he would lead a field visit on January 12, 2026, to assess priority road sections and advise on immediate follow-up



actions.

The meeting concluded with the scheduling of the next coordination session for January 16, 2026, thereby formalizing a bi-monthly meeting schedule throughout the crop season. This regular forum is expected to strengthen planning, improve responsiveness to weather and logistical challenges, and ensure that interventions deliver clear benefits to cane farmers and the wider industry.

Through these recurring engagements, the Ministry of Economic Transformation and its partners reaffirmed their collective commitment to modernizing Belize's sugar industry and safeguarding the livelihoods of thousands of sugarcane farmers and workers across northern Belize. (release)

FSC of Belize Becomes an Ordinary Member of IOSCO, Marks Full Integration into Global Securities Regulatory Community

Belmopan, Belize - January 12, 2026

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Belize has been admitted as an Ordinary Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), marking a significant milestone in Belize's continued integration into the international framework for cross-border securities regulation, supervision, and enforcement cooperation.

Ordinary Membership is the highest level of participation within IOSCO and is reserved for national securities regulators that meet the organisation's rigorous standards for regulatory capacity and enforcement cooperation, and adherence. IOSCO's members collectively regulate more than 95% of the world's securities markets across 130 jurisdictions.

This achievement builds on the FSC's acceptance as an IOSCO Associate Member in May 2024, followed by its designation as a signatory of the

Continued on page 18



LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE



#EatLessSalt
#ShakeTheHabit



INCAP
Instituto de Nutrición
de Centro América y Panamá

FSC of Belize
Becomes an
Ordinary Member
of IOSCO, Marks
Full Integration into
Global Securities
Regulatory
Community

Continued from page 17
IOSCO Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMoU) in December 2025. Together these milestones reflect a structured and deliberate progression toward full participation in IOSCO’s membership.

From Associate Membership to Full Participation

Associate Membership provided the FSC with formal entry into IOSCO’s capacity- building framework. Following that admission, the FSC undertook the IOSCO MMoU screening process, demonstrating that Belize possesses the legal authority and operational capacity to cooperate and exchange information with foreign securities regulators for enforcement purposes.

MMoU signatory status is a prerequisite for Ordinary Membership. With that requirement satisfied, the FSC’s admission as an Ordinary Member confirms that Belize now meets IOSCO’s highest benchmarks for international regulatory cooperation and supervisory effectiveness.

As an Ordinary Member, the FSC now enjoys full participation rights within IOSCO, including voting rights, eligibility to serve on IOSCO committees, and the ability to contribute directly to the development of international regulatory and supervisory standards.

Strengthening Cross-Border Enforcement Cooperation

Ordinary Membership enhances the FSC’s ability to engage constructively with regulatory counterparts worldwide and strengthens Belize’s capacity to deter misconduct, protect investors, and support fair, efficient, and transparent securities markets.

Supporting the Supervision of Emerging Financial Technologies

MMoU signatory status also enhances the FSC’s capacity to supervise emerging financial activities within an internationally credible enforcement framework. By meeting IOSCO’s standards for cooperation and information sharing, the FSC supports a robust supervisory approach to financial innovation, including activities related to digital asset tokenization and other technology-driven financial services, while maintaining a strong focus on investor protection and market integrity.

Statement from the Director General

Mr. Claude B. F. Haylock, Director General of the FSC, stated:

“Becoming an Ordinary Member of IOSCO represents the culmination of a disciplined regulatory journey for Belize. From Associate Membership, through MMoU signatory status, to full Ordinary Membership, each step has demonstrated our legal, supervisory, and enforcement framework to be in line with international standards.

Ordinary Membership allows Belize to participate fully in IOSCO’s policy and standard-setting work and confirms the FSC’s standing as a credible and effective securities regulator within the global regulatory community.”

Continuing Commitment to International Standards

The FSC will continue to implement IOSCO’s Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation and to engage actively in IOSCO’s supervisory, policy, and enforcement co- operation initiatives. Ordinary Membership further underscores Belize’s commitment to regulatory transparency, market integrity, and responsible financial sector development, positioning the country for continued growth and innovation in its financial markets. (release)

Courtesy Call - Minister Ferguson
received Ambassador Li-Wen Hsu



January 12, 2026: Ambassador Lily Li-Wen Hsu of the Republic of China (Taiwan) today paid a courtesy call to Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries Hon. Rodwell Ferguson.

Ambassador Hsu and Minister Ferguson discussed areas of cooperation in agriculture between the two countries, and progress in projects both countries have undertaken so far, such as in agro-processing and the recently completed sheep and goat breeding project. Ambassador Hsu briefed Minister Ferguson on priorities of her government’s mission in Belize and the way forward with these initiatives. Both Minister Ferguson and Ambassador Hsu pledged to continue the harmonious relationship between the two countries with mutual support and respect as has so far been the benchmark of the cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Minister of State Alex Balona, CEO Servulo Baeza and Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Victoria-no Pascual, as well as technical staff from the Embassy of Taiwan. (post)



MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTION AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS,
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORTATION

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CONCRETING OF BELMOPAN BUS TERMINAL PARKING LOT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation, intends to pave the Belmopan Bus Terminal Parking Lot using Rigid Pavement (Reinforced Concrete).

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start within a month. The Ministry hereby invites interested contractors in the civil works to be part of this bidding process.

The Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation. The Ministry will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The scope of works will include but not be limited to:

- Construction, installation and paving of reinforced concrete slab for bus parking area
- Construction of Drains & Bus Bays
- Repair & Erection of Perimeter Fence
- Line Marking of Bus Bays & Parking area
- Construction of Bus terminal access road

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in Rigid Pavement (Reinforced Concrete) of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 10 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in application of Rigid Pavement
- Contract Management Experience: 5 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: \$200,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz\$300,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years’ experience

Effective **Monday 19 January 2026**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz\$500.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one hard copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Thursday 22 January 2026 at 10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the Belmopan Bus Terminal.

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Executive Officer at the address below no later than **Friday 30 January 2026 at 10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: **Mr. Chester Williams**
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs and Transportation
Abadi Building
Constitution Drive
Belmopan
Cayo District
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: 828-5002 or 828-5012
Email: ceo.secretary@mcrit.gov.bz

DONATION - MAFSNGI Receives from UNDP, FAO, & KOICA



Some 12 Motorcycles and computer equipment were today handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries.

The UNDP, FAO of the United Nations and KOICA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, handed over computer equipment and 6 motorcycles, a donation valued at over \$80,000.00 dollars to the Ministry, following previous donations of drones, cell phone equipment and a UTV. These form part of a project aimed at enhancing the Ministry's data collection abilities, which are critical to providing updated information for projects and coordination with collaborating partners and agencies.

At the same time OIRSA, the International Regional Plant and Animal Health Organization, also donated 6 motorcycles, intended to assist the Ministry's Extension Service with the Screwworm Eradication program. The donation of motorcycles follows previous donations of medicines and equipment used in the Eradication program.

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth

Caye Caulker Security News
Contract Signed for
New Police Substation;
Constructions is Next



January 13, 2025 - The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Home Affairs and Enterprise and the Ministry of Economic Transformation, signed a contract with Coleman Construction Limited for the construction of a new police substation for the island of Caye Caulker. This facility and its equipment are intended to provide improved infrastructure to house the police officers assigned to maintain law and order in the vibrant island community, which continues to expand as an important tourism destination.

Valued at approximately BZ\$1.5 million, the substation forms part of the Belize Integral Security Programme, an initiative funded by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to enhance citizen security by upgrading infrastructure, equipment, and capabilities for Belize's armed forces and the National Forensic Science Service.(post)

This signing joins the litany of new police substations and stations all over the country.

This is the PUP GoB using funds efficiently and transparently. These are funds available since the dark days of the UDP.

Why did they not use it? Answer: They did not know how to access it especially since it is transparent money.

CABEI funds have to be used with accountability, this is a trait the UDP has never been guilty to possessing. Ask the Leader of the Opposition about Brads, Gaming in general during her time, Sanctuary Bay, BTL, and her most recent visit to the Lord's Yacht and all she will say is that she is willing to meet with any investor.

The PUP is about opening and transparently serving the people of Belize first. The few times the UDP and their media shout is because they can clearly see the changes. They do not live seeing Belizean progress so they block it. Belizean progress renders the UDP obsolete and it hurts them to their DNA.

Industries Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of State Alex Balona and CEO Servulo Baeza were present for the handing over and all spoke

to the use the equipment will have in enhancing data collection and reaching farmers in remote areas, as well as in

making the work of the Extension Service easier.

The equipment will be deployed to the six districts across the country. (post)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Corozal North, San Joaquin/ San Maximo Village, Corozal District; Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District; Caribbean Shores, Belize City, San Pedro, Belize Rural North II, Belize District; Santa Elena, Cayo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel No. 4013 Corozal North, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	4013
The freehold property of Mr. Leroy Westby.		

2. Parcel No. 296 San Joaquin Village, Corozal District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Joaquin/San Maximo	1	296
The freehold property of Mr. Wilbert P. Linares		

3. Parcel No. 1447 Carmelita Village, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Carmelita	4	1447
The freehold property of Mr. Roamir Edwardo Gonzalez.		

4. Parcel No. 972 Caribbean Shores, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Caribbean Shores	16	972
The freehold property of Mr. Edmond Chee surety for The Pew Pew Store -Guns & Ammo C0. Ltd.		

5. Parcel No. 7092 Grand Belizean Estates, San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye, Belize District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Pedro	7	7092
The freehold property of Mr. Edilberto Reyes Jr.		

6. Parcel No. 1173 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1173
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

7. Parcel No. 1174 off Loma Luz Boulevard, Santa Elena, Cayo District:



REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Santa Elena/Cayo	23	1174
The freehold property of Mr. Gianni Jerald Castillo.		

8. Vehicle:



2019 4DR Great Wall Wingle

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction



Questions Demand Clear Answers

Dear Editor,

Chandra Nisbet-Cansino, we have a few questions that many Belizeans are quietly asking and deserve clear, public answers.

Word is that insurance was transferred—or is it intended to be transferred—from the Social Security Board to a new insurance company. Word is that you intend to work there soon? Did the SSB Board authorize this decision, and were all members fully informed before any action was taken? Transparency is not optional when public funds and institutions are involved.

There is also the matter of stability and perception. In less than a year, you have moved from CEO of K.H.M.H. to Chair of the S.S.B., and now to senior management of an Insurance Company? Rapid movement between influential positions naturally raises concerns about continuity, conflicts of interest, and whether sufficient safeguards were in place to protect public trust.

Belizeans are not against professional growth, but when leadership roles in key national institutions overlap with private sector interests, clarity becomes essential. Silence only fuels speculation.

At the same time, national discussions such as the proposed BTL and SMART merger remind us that difficult decisions are sometimes made to prepare the country to move forward together. A simple search shows other governments have used similar approaches to protect local revenue and national interests.

That is exactly why openness matters. Belizeans can accept tough decisions—but only when they are explained honestly and handled transparently.

Sincerely,
T.T. Holland



Honoring George Price’s Legacy

Dear Editor,

This year, Belize proudly observed the 5th George Price Day alongside the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary Tour coming to the Belize District. These twin milestones offered Belizeans a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the life, vision, and enduring legacy of the Right Honourable George Cadle Price, the Father of the Nation.

George Price means more to Belize than a chapter in a history book. He represents courage, sacrifice, and an unshakable belief in Belize’s right to self-determination. At a time when our future was uncertain, he stood firm, guided not by personal gain but by principle. His lifelong commitment to sovereignty, social justice, and national unity laid the foundation for the Belize we know today.

The 75th Anniversary Tour’s return to the Belize District carried deep symbolism. It reminded us of the grassroots journey of the nationalist movement—one that relied on conversations with ordinary Belizeans, village by village, street by street. That connection to the people was central to Price’s leadership and remains a lesson for leaders today.

As we mark George Price Day for the fifth time, we are reminded that his legacy is not only to be celebrated but lived. His message of service, humility, and love for country continues to call on Belizeans to put the nation before self.

George Price belongs to all Belizeans. His vision still guides us, and his legacy continues to shape our collective future.

Sincerely,
Serving Belizean

The Other Side of History

By Ricardo Moguel

This book begins from a refusal.
A refusal to accept that our history starts where the archive becomes legible.
A refusal to believe that survival is a lesser form of intelligence.
A refusal to mistake silence for absence.
The Other Side of History is written from the conviction that what we call history has always been selective, not only in what it remembers, but in whom it allows to speak. It asks a simple but destabilizing question: what happens when we listen to the land, the laboring body, and the inherited memory with the same seriousness we grant official records?
Here, history is not a procession of governors, treaties, and dates. It is continuity. It is what persists beneath flags and beyond administrations. It is the Maya milpa planted and replanted despite dispossession. It is the river remembered as road. It is resistance that does not announce itself, because it does not need permission.

This work rejects the comfort of linear progress. It insists instead on structural truth: that colonialism did not end, it adapted; that abolition altered form but not extraction; that independence did not dissolve inequality, it rebranded it. To say this is not to deny achievement, but to refuse illusion.

The tone of this book is epic not because it glorifies conquest, but because endurance deserves scale. Its language moves deliberately between archive and memory, analysis and myth, because Belizean history has always existed in this in-between space. Magic realism here is not fantasy, it is method. It is a way of naming realities that official language has never learned to hold.

This book does not offer nostalgia. It offers clarity. It does not promise reconciliation without reckoning. It insists that hope, if it is to mean anything, must be disciplined, informed, and morally demanding.

We write from the understanding that our history is older than our grief, older than the maps that tried to erase us. And because it is older, it is also unfinished.

This is not the final word.
It is an opening.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Security Officer Grade III

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Security Department.

The Security Officer Grade III reports to Security Officers Grades I and II. The Grade III Officer enforces the Central Bank’s rules and security procedures and performs assigned duties at different locations in the Central Bank. The Officer is required to work shifts and adhere to the Bank’s policies, procedures, and directives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure the security, safety, and well-being of personnel, visitors, and the premises.
- Provide excellent customer service.
- Adhere to all operating standards.
- Complete reports by recording observations, information, occurrences, and surveillance activities.
- Respond to emergencies to provide necessary assistance to employees and visitors.
- Performs other duties assigned from time to time.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A high school diploma from a recognized secondary school. Previous experience in the police, military, or security field, and small arms would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of modern security techniques systems; Knowledge of security equipment and law enforcement principles; Ability to perform tasks that require physical strength and agility, bending, climbing, and lifting heavy objects; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Ability, Communication, Customer Focus, Department, Initiative, Interpersonal Relations, Job Knowledge, Quality of Output, Problem Solving/Judgement.

Submit the following documents by **Wednesday, 28 January 2026**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) references (Both must be from a previous or current employer.)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other professional certificates
- Police Record

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager
Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P. O. Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Security Officer Grade III - Security Department
Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

BTL SHOULD BUY

(contributed article)

Belize has various essential services as monopolies, Belize Electricity Limited, Belize Water Services Limited, the Butane business, and now, another one in the making, the proposed national bus company being promoted by Minister Zabaneh.

The BTL Acquisition and the consolidation of the Telcom is a good proposal—for the company, the shareholders, and the country.

The Strategic Objectives of the Acquisition are:

1. Market consolidation and stability in Belize's telecommunications and media sectors
2. Protection of national telecommunications infrastructure from foreign dominance
3. Operational and cost efficiencies through economies of scale
4. Enhanced service quality and technological advancement
5. Sustainable long-term value creation for shareholders and the Belizean public

The proposed acquisitions would consolidate critical national telecommunications infrastructure under a single, majority government-owned entity, thereby strengthening BTL's market position, safeguarding national interests, enhancing shareholder value, and promoting sustainable economic and technological development for Belize.

The plan recognizes a material strategic risk should a well-capitalized foreign telecommunications company acquire Smart, such an entity would possess the financial, technological, and managerial resources to aggressively compete, potentially eroding BTL's market share, weakening national control of critical infrastructure, and undermining long-term public policy objectives. The proposed acquisitions are therefore not merely commercial opportunities but defensive and strategic imperatives.

The **four key benefits to the company** that the acquisition will provide are: market leadership and competitive positioning; economies of scale; enhanced network quality and investment capacity; and a defensive strategy against foreign market entry.

Market Leadership and Competitive Positioning: The acquisition would effectively eliminate fragmented competition in a small and capacity-constrained market. Belize's population and economic scale do not efficiently support multiple fully independent telecom and cable operators without duplicative costs and underinvestment. By acquiring Smart, BTL would: (1) Secure market leadership across fixed-line, and mobile, (2) Prevent price wars and margin erosion that limit reinvestment capacity, (3) Establish a stable, predictable operating environment conducive to long-term planning. This consolidation would allow BTL to compete more effectively against potential foreign entrants with significantly larger balance sheets.

Economies of Scale and Cost Synergies: The acquisitions would unlock significant operational synergies, including: (1) Rationalization of network infrastructure and transmission assets, (2) Consol-

idation of back-office functions (billing, customer service, IT, procurement), (3) Reduced duplication of capital expenditures. These efficiencies would lower unit costs, improve EBITDA margins, and strengthen BTL's financial resilience, enabling greater reinvestment in next-generation technologies such as fiber expansion, 5G readiness, and digital services.

Enhanced Network Quality and Investment Capacity: A consolidated entity would be better positioned to: (1) Accelerate nationwide mobile coverage, (2) Improve service reliability and redundancy, (3) Invest in cybersecurity and data resilience. In contrast, a fragmented market risks underinvestment as smaller operators struggle to fund capital-intensive upgrades.

Defensive Strategy Against Foreign Market Entry: If Smart were acquired by a foreign telecom operator, that entity could: (1) Inject substantial capital to rapidly expand infrastructure, (2) Engage in aggressive pricing to capture market share, (3) Outspend BTL in marketing, technology, and talent acquisition. Such a scenario could significantly weaken BTL's competitive position and undermine its public service mandate. Proactive acquisition neutralizes this risk.

The **four key benefits to the shareholders** that the acquisition will provide are: revenue growth and diversification; improved profitability and cash flow stability; long term shareholder value creation, and reduced strategic and regulatory risk, not to mention the increase in shareholders dividends.

Revenue Growth and Diversification: The acquisitions would immediately expand BTL's revenue base by: (1) Adding Smart's subscriber base, (2) Enabling bundled service offerings (mobile and enterprise solutions), (4) Bundling improves customer retention, increases average revenue per user (ARPU), and stabilizes cash flows.

Improved Profitability and Cash Flow Stability: Cost synergies and operational efficiencies would translate into: (1) Higher operating margins, (2) Reduced capital expenditure duplication, (3) More predictable and sustainable cash flows. This financial stability enhances BTL's ability to service debt, fund dividends, and reinvest in strategic initiatives.

Long-Term Shareholder Value Creation: For both government and minority shareholders, the acquisition: (1) Protects the long-term viability of the company, (2) Reduces existential competitive risks, (3) Supports a stronger balance sheet and improved valuation. A dominant, well-capitalized national operator is inherently more valuable than a weakened incumbent facing foreign-backed competition. There are other foreign buyers who are interested in the purchase of Smart.

Reduced Strategic and Regulatory Risk: Foreign ownership of a major telecom competitor could introduce: (1) Regulatory uncertainty, (2) Conflicts between shareholder profit objectives and national policy goals, (3) Potential capital repatriation rather than domestic reinvestment. By consolidating ownership locally, shareholders benefit from reduced geopolitical and regulatory volatility.

The **five key benefits to the coun-**

try that the acquisition will provide are: protection of national sovereignty and strategic assets; universal service and social equity; economic stability and local retention of profits; accelerated digital transformation and national development; and regulatory efficiency and market sustainability.

Protection of National Sovereignty and Strategic Assets: Telecommunications and media infrastructure are critical national assets. Consolidation under a government-owned entity: (1) Preserves national control over essential communications systems, (2) Ensures alignment with national security and emergency response priorities, (3) Prevents strategic dependency on foreign corporate interests.

Universal Service and Social Equity: BTL, as a government-owned entity, has a broader mandate beyond profit maximization. Consolidation enables: (1) Cross-subsidization to support rural and underserved communities, (2) Affordable pricing structures aligned with national development goals, (3) Continued investment in non-commercial but socially essential services. A foreign-owned competitor would be less likely to prioritize these objectives.

Economic Stability and Local Retention of Profits: Local ownership ensures that: (1) Profits are retained and reinvested within Belize, (2) Employment remains stable and locally focused, (3) Skills development and training benefit Belizean workers. For-

eign ownership often results in profit extraction and reduced local economic multipliers.

Accelerated Digital Transformation and National Development: A unified telecom and cable platform supports: (1) E-government initiatives, (2) Digital education and healthcare delivery, (3) National broadband expansion and digital inclusion. These outcomes are foundational to Belize's long-term economic competitiveness and resilience.

Regulatory Efficiency and Market Sustainability: A consolidated market reduces: (1) Regulatory complexity and oversight costs, (2) Market instability caused by financially weak operators, (3) Risk of sudden market exits that disrupt consumers. This allows regulators to focus on service quality, innovation, and consumer protection rather than market survival.

Conclusion: The acquisition of Smart by Belize Telemedia Limited represents a strategically sound, financially prudent, and nationally beneficial initiative. It strengthens the company's competitive position, protects shareholder value, and safeguards Belize's telecommunications sovereignty. Most critically, it preempts the significant strategic risk posed by foreign acquisition of local telecom assets—an outcome that could irreversibly alter the market structure to the detriment of BTL, its shareholders, and the Belizean public. Accordingly, the proposed acquisitions should be viewed not merely as commercial transactions, but as strategic investments in national infrastructure, economic stability, and long-term development.

BY ORDER OF CHARGE **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL**

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED a statutory body formed and registered under the Credit Union Act, Chapter 314 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, and whose registered office is situated at No. 1 Hyde's Lane, Belize City, Belize District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as Chargee under and by virtue of a Charge registered at the Land Registry between **RAHEEM CLIFFORD NICHOLAS** of the one part and HRCU of the other part.

HRCU will at the expiration of three months from the date of the first publication of this notice sell the property described in the Schedule below.

ALL offers to purchase the said property must be made in writing to Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited from whom full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 1,044.3 Square Meters being Parcel 786, Block 4 in the Carmelita Registration Section **TOGETHER** with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of **RAHEEM CLIFFORD NICHOLAS**

DATED this 5th day of January 2026

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED
1 HYDE'S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

Phone: (501) 280-5644

Fax: (501) 223-0738

E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/>

JAZZLEE USHER MAKES BELIZE PROUD; PLACES 4TH IN CREAM OF THE CROP DRAMA COMPETITION IN NEW JERSEY

By Gilroy Usher, Port Loyola

On Saturday January 10th, Jazzlee Usher 16yr old 3rd Form student in New Jersey made her high school and Belize proud when she took 4th place in her category of oral interpretation among the best high school students in drama from throughout New Jersey at the Hunterdon Central Regional High School - blue ribbon school of excellence.

With a population of over 9.5 million, more than 100 high-schools, and well-paid teachers, New Jersey was recently ranked #1 in education in the United States by U.S. News and World Report.

In her first presentation titled "Gunman Still Cry" Jazzlee dealt with the social cost of youth violence in her native country Belize, some solutions to the problem, and interaction among the youths prior to the advent of gang violence. In demonstrating how seriously she took the topic, Jazzlee began and concluded her presentation with a few lines of the Belizean National Anthem, and was selected with five other students for the final out of a pool of almost 40 students. In her last presentation "Life in Motion" Jazzlee focused on the importance of perusing one's dreams in life and outlined the challenges she had to overcome to become



a ballet dancer/ballerina given the stereotypes about who can and cannot excel in the art.

The other 5 topics in the final of the oral interpretation with Jazzlee were Depression, Touched -sexual abuse of a minor, Counting Thyme-dealing with cancer, Not a Genuine Blackman, and Such a Pretty Girl - sexual assault of a minor.

There were over 20 other categories in the competition including Duo presentation and Dramatic interpretation.

With the conclusion of the state competition, students who made the semi-finals will compete in the same categories at the interstate level with the final competition in Virginia.

Students who qualify for the semi-finals in New Jersey and beyond to the final competition are given a citation on their résumés which greatly enhance their chance of acceptance to Howard or Yale Universities.

Jazzlee Usher is the daughter of Gilroy Usher, Jr and Kayla Palacio. She is also the granddaughter of Hon Gilroy Usher and his wife Magdalene Usher.



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Your website should generate leads — not sit there.
January only.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Verna Samuels** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Bird’s Eye View Kitchen”** located in Crooked Tree Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Said K. Pike** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Love Skyler Shop”** located at # 1 Old Fabers Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **H20 Holdings Limited** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Agua Magica”** located at Unit A 2 ½ Mls. P.G. Hwy., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Stanley Smith** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Altun Ha Restaurant And Bar”** located at # 30 Lucky Strike Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Windell Humes** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Mayan Sunrise”** located in Rockstone Pond Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Djenn Cayetano/Shawn Gillett** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Prive’ Night Club”** located in Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jennifer Jane Pollard** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Jenny’s Guana Splash”** located in Rockstone Pond Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Judy Betancourt** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Habibi’s Cuisines”** located on Constitution Dr., City of Belmopan, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zhen Sheng Huang** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Aaron Store”** located on Bze/Czl Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wei Jin Luo** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sunday Fast Food”** located on Liberty Avenue, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Guo Li Chen** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“White House Restaurant”** located on Fonseca Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wei Jin Luo** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sunday Fast Food”** located on Liberty Avenue, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zi Long Li** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Dickerson Family Mart”** located at # 132 Bze/Czl Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Judith Gonzalez** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Hanger Multi Service”** located at # 53 P.G. Hwy., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jitendra M. Chawla** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“JC Club Belize”** located at # 36 Bze/Czl Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Veronica Castillo** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **“Budda Lounge”** located at # 7 Aurora Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Herardo Q. Briceno** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Bri’s Mini Shop”** located in San Juan Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Azael Gonzalez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“The Backyard Sports Pub”** located at Cor. Pasture/Audinet Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Maura A. Gongora** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“By Pass Fast Food”** located in San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Pricila N. Peters** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Daily Needs Grocery Shop”** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Raquel Percastre** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Dado’s”** located at # 7 Jamaican Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Janel Magana** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“The Poisoned Apple”** located at # 36 Cemetery Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Renan Briceno** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Zia’s Pool Room”** located at # 36 Cemetery Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Emma Castillo** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Emmalee’s Cool Spot”** located at # 6 Mopan Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Arturo Melendez** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Meat Up Point”** located at # 37 Savannah Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Arturo Melendez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Soundware House”** located at # 1 Manatee Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **BSCFA Service Station** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“BSCFA Service Station”** located in Tower Hill Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Evaristo Novelo** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Paraiso Bar”** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Henry Mojica** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“Diamond Cool Spot”** located in San Felipe Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Sergio Espadas** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on Boundary Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Sergio Espadas** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on San Antonio Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Mario Matura** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on Palmar Rd., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Jailene Trujillo** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on Yo Creek Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Beatris Briceno** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on St. Vincent St., Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited/Adrian Turton** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz”** located on San Lorenzo Rd., Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Joel Raymundo** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Jacqueline’s Shop”** located in St. Margaret Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Naybaz Store”** located at # 326 Manta Ray Boulevard, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Demi Ann Hemsley** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“J & D’s Cool Spot”** located in Rock Stone Pond Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Doris A. Escobar** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Bichota’s Bar”** located on Green Street, Belama Ph. IV, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Doris A. Escobar** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Carlito’s Shop”** located on Green Street, Belama Ph. IV, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sonia Gomez Fajardo** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sonia’s Typical Diner # 2”** located at # 6 2nd Street, K.P.A., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Michael G. Searle** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Mil Iguanas”** located at # 1756 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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